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Dacus Digest

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# The Dacus Digest Volume 2 Issue 3

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Dacus Library

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# The Dacus Digest

## From The Outreach Librarian

As anyone might expect, summertime at Dacus Library is much calmer than the fall and spring semesters, due to the smaller number of students taking classes. However, books still get checked out, computers and printers get used, reference questions get asked and group study rooms still get occupied.

Because all library faculty and staff are 12-month employees, summer is a good time to catch up on whatever we had to push aside during fall and spring semesters. Projects that involve all of the staff, like inventory, are one of those things.

This summer we've all been working on an inventory project to clean up the catalog and weed some outdated materials from our collection. Staff are in the stacks checking to see what's on the shelves compared to our inventory lists, while student workers shelve materials that get pulled for a variety of reasons. In our Content Services division staff are busy updating, adding and deleting records. Some materials get pulled from the shelves to be evaluated by librarians as to whether they should remain in our collection or be withdrawn. It's certainly a group effort.

The majority of this project will be complete by fall semester, making it easier for everyone to find materials in our catalog and in the stacks.



Michaela Volkmar



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Our Partnership With Think College.....	2
Booking Appointments Just Got Easier!.....	3
Personal Librarian Program.....	3
Quick Catalog Search Altered.....	4
We Do Instruction Sessions!.....	4
Wanted: Browsing Materials.....	5

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## Our Partnership With Think College

Does it feel like there are more student workers at the library in recent years? That's because we've partnered with the Winthrop Think College program to provide on-site vocational training for these students. Trey Woodring, library technical assistant, supervises many of the student employees and has been instrumental in collaborating with Dr. Jennifer Wall (formerly Cease-Cook), director of Winthrop Think College, in bringing about this opportunity.

Basia Oley was the first Winthrop Think College student to intern at Dacus Library, with peer-mentor Grace Neill, during the 2014 fall semester. The following spring, two additional students began interning at Dacus, Kevin Rauppius and Sara Oxenfeld. By fall semester 2015,

there were more than fifteen Think College students interning at Dacus Library with six peer-mentors! While interning at the library, Think College students have the opportunity to develop a variety of vocational and social skills while doing tasks such as shelving books and working at the Circulation desk. They always work with a peer-mentor, a library student employee who is already trained in a variety of library tasks. This opportunity provides Think College students with career exploration in order to maximize independence and employability, which we hope will aid them in their future careers and endeavors.

If you'd like to know more about the Winthrop Think College initiative, you can read about it [here](#).

*A few Think College students, a peer-mentor and Trey Woodring pose with a James Dean cutout during a student employee Christmas party.*



## Booking Appointments Just Got Easier!

Last year we introduced the Book-A-Librarian service providing one-on-one appointments with librarians that can be [booked online](#). This service is intended to help patrons do research or receive basic computer assistance. Anyone with a Winthrop e-mail address can book an appointment with any of our participating librarians.

Last year when booking appointments, you had to view each individual librarian's calendar of

availability to see what might work with your schedule. There's now a better way!

Now when you go to the [calendar of availability](#) you can leave the staff member selection set to "no preference" and see all date/time slots that are available. Note that if there aren't any available times that work with your schedule, you can always send an e-mail to a librarian from his or her profile.

## Personal Librarian Program

Around the same time we started our Book-A-Librarian service last fall semester, we started a Personal Librarian program. A personal librarian is a librarian who gets assigned a group of students to reach out to several times a semester via e-mail. Students sign up to have a personal librarian who will communicate with them about the library's resources, services and events. In addition, personal librarians let their assigned students know that if they need any library-related assistance, they're just an e-mail away.

We want students to be comfortable using the library—not intimidated by librarians or the thought of doing research or finding a book in the stacks. Our hope is that the Personal Librarian program is one way we can start to change how students view the library and their librarians, for the better.

Last year we tested out this program with a small group of students (a big thank you to Dr. Kathy Lyon for allowing us try it out on the honors students!). Students who responded to our surveys at the end of each semester were very positive about the program.

This fall, student participation in the program will be voluntary, but we're hoping to get a good many students signed up.

I'll be promoting this in a variety of ways, but I'd really love help from those of you who oversee a group of students—yes program directors I'm thinking of you! If you think your group of students could really benefit from having this kind of personal outreach from a librarian, would you [e-mail me](#)? I'll be contacting some of you through e-mail soon as well.

We want students signing up as early in fall semester as possible! I hope to hear from some of you soon!

If you'd like some promotional bookmarks or flyers for our Book-A-Librarian service, please [e-mail me](#)!

Promoting this program can be as easy as forwarding an electronic sign-up sheet to your students. If you prefer, I can also come and speak to a group, giving them the chance to sign-up afterwards.

[E-mail me](#) or call  
803/323-2263



## Quick Catalog Search Altered

If you frequently use our online catalog you're probably aware that our catalog can display search results for not only Winthrop's materials, but other libraries' materials as well (libraries worldwide).

Until recently the quick catalog search (the search box on the library's homepage) would, by default, search libraries worldwide. Winthrop's materials will display first but then you'll also see materials that we don't own farther down in the list of results.

We recently changed a setting that now makes Winthrop University the

default when you do a search (just make sure you clear your browser history/cache to see this change). This default setting now matches the setting for the Advanced Search to return results only for Winthrop materials. We hope this consistency will be helpful.

Keep in mind, however, that there is always the option to change the location filter from Winthrop University to Libraries Worldwide if you like seeing materials from other libraries (there's a PASCAL Delivers option too). The filters are available on the Advanced Search page and on the left side of the search results page.

## We Do Instruction Sessions!

Are you teaching a class this fall semester that requires your students to do research of any kind? If so, have you considered bringing your class to the library for an instruction session?

Most library instruction sessions are taught in the library's electronic classroom on the ground floor, which contains twenty-four PCs for student use. A library tour can be included in the session, if there's enough time. We can also do these sessions in other buildings on campus assuming they have the proper equipment for instruction (computer labs are usually best).

Library instruction sessions can cover basics such as using the library's catalog, selecting databases using our research guides and then

searching within specific databases. If you provide us with information on the level of research and the assignments, we can better cater our session to the students' informational needs.

Ready to book a session? Great! You can either contact Information Literacy Coordinator [Jackie McFadden](#) at 803/323-2322 or call the reference desk at 803/323-4501. If you have a librarian in mind you would like to teach the session you can even contact them directly.

Just don't wait too long to book a session—librarians' schedules fill up quickly, especially during fall semester, and the electronic classroom gets booked quickly as well! We hope to work with you soon!

Further questions on  
library instruction  
sessions?

Contact Information  
Literacy Coordinator  
[Jackie McFadden](#) at  
803/323-2322 or call  
the reference desk at  
803/323-4501.



## Wanted: Browsing Materials

Do you have any recent popular fiction or nonfiction books you've already read and don't need to hang onto anymore? What about DVDs or books on CD? We have a browsing collection that could use some new titles, but our materials budget at Dacus is really tight. We'd love to buy some more popular materials, but we really have to stick to purchasing academic materials at this time.

So that's where you come in! If you have popular books, audiobooks on CD, or DVDs that are just taking up space on your shelves, would you please consider making a donation? People donate to their public libraries, which is wonderful, but think about us too if you're cleaning out your bookcases and closets. We imagine those of you who regularly

check out from our browsing collection wouldn't mind seeing some new materials as well.

To donate materials, we ask that you contact [Antje Mays](#) in our Acquisitions Department. Antje's phone number is 803/323-2274.

Our browsing collection is located at the top of the main stairwell on the second floor. Most books are located in the spinning racks and the DVDs are on the flat bookcase against the stair rail. Take a look next time you're in and check something out! All you need is your Winthrop ID or other photo ID to check out our materials. For faculty and staff they check out for an entire academic year during fall and spring—so take your time reading that Jodi Picoult or Lee Child novel you found.



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